

Dublin 17th of July - 1849

My dear Friend - Our mutual friend Mr. A. Lither has kindly offered to forward to Boston any notes or letters I may have to send - so I take the opportunity to ask a favour of you. Although I have known of the book for years I have never read Theodore Parker's Discourse on Religion till very lately. I was repelled by the metaphysical terms of the first chapter. However I have read the book ~~now~~ after having busily dipped into the latter part which arrested my attention & carried through the whole. You would greatly gratify me by a letter if you have time to write about Theodore Parker - what you know of him - how you like him - Is he not very learned & a very able man - Is he not very courageous - Has he not clothed himself with the robe of sanctity and thus practiced the new life that he preaches? How far does he go with them? Where does he live and how does he live? What is his character? What class of people does he chiefly associate with? Is he not a most original writer and a greater man than F. Channing? - He is likely to make an impression on his age? Mr. Lither sometimes ~~quotes~~ ~~has~~ ~~seen~~ ~~you~~ writes me by a train of the ~~way~~ ~~you~~ ~~writes~~ him - He could hardly see me a greater friend.

I have just read a packet of them (those in which
you comment on Mr. Menchi's conduct) with Mr.
Lalor's remarks on your estimate of him. Mr.
Lalor thinks you much mistaken - I who know
more of the position of the anti-slavery cause
than he does am sure you are right. Under
the circumstances of Mr. Menchi's previous
life, and his profession which editor of the
Inquirer, I know of nothing meaner or poorer
or more cowardly than his conduct in Boston
as you have described it. It was utterly
contemptible. The more I realize the greatness
of your number of effective laborers when
compared with the intensity of the hostility you
have to contend with, the more I wonder at
your courage & perseverance. It is true
that the labor is its own reward - that
it does appreciate the greatness of the reward
which it shrinks from the contest.
I am glad to hear that an effort is to be
made to rescue the early history of the cause
from oblivion & from your description I suppose
Joshua Coffin likely to be a good chronicler &
collector of facts - but I would be surprised
that he would hardly be likely to make a good
book for the public. I think Miss Martineau
if she had the materials could make a book
that would draw attention from the public.
No one on this side of the water could have
been chosen fitter than Mr. Estlin to put the

^{questions}
urgent questions in the best way to elicit
the stores that lie hidden in Mr Coffin's
retentive memory. The day will come when
all such materials will be precious to read-
ers who are indifferent to them now. The
history of the abolition of the Slave Trade &
West Indian Slavery would make a dry
story in comparison. If you could readily
forward to Anne Warren Weston at Weymouth
any information you may have for me
I would be likely to receive it before long. Any
sugar of information about Parker will be
acceptable - Is he popular as preacher - I mean
has he large congregations - and what class of
hearers is it composed of. I think his view
of the Bible & of Christianity by far the most
cheerful, ~~the~~ most reasonable, & most consis-
tent with the progress of our race. The crumbs
that he in abundance is ready to give are most
welcome to me who have not much sympathy
in Dublin, about either Anti Slavery or theo-
social enquiries. If you could give me any
hints about my ~~own~~ Standard better I would
be extremely obliged - and I would like to know
from you frankly whether you can put me in the
way of making them more interesting & more
useful - whether there are any permanent faults
of manner or matter that you could help me
to avoid

Yours ever truly,

Rich D Webb

Recd. Sept. 11. 1849.
Ans. Feb. 18. 1850.

Samuel May, Junr
Leicester
Mass.

Mr Stearns Letter

~~Received~~

~~Dec 11~~

Thurs

~~Dec 11~~